

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8225

S E C R E T NAIROBI 9104

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CF, XA, XJ, KE
SUBJECT: AFRICAN POLICY: SHABA, SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT

REF: STATE 153145

1. I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PROPOSAL THAT WE INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH SENIOR AFRICAN LEADERS, INCLUDING KENYA PRESIDENT KENYATTA, PRIOR TO KHARTOUM SUMMIT. I WOULD PROPOSE AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT WE MANIFEST OUR PRESSING CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED EAST-WEST CONFLICT IN AFRICA IN VIEW OF WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE THE INABILITY OF OAU TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR TO FORESTALL OR RESOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS SUCH AS SHABA, OGADEN, THE WESTERN SAHARA, ETC. I BELIEVE WE MUST BE FRANK IN INFORMING OUR INTERLOCUTERS THAT IF OAU CANNOT SOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS AFRICAN NATIONS SHOULD INDEED EXPECT EXTRA-CONTINENTAL INTERVENTION FROM BOTH EAST AND WEST. WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BURDEN OF RESOLUTION IS ON THE OAU BUT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO HELP IN STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD AFRICANS THEMSELVES AGREE AS TO HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE. I BELIEVE UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON PROPOSALS COMING FROM OUR FRIENDS RATHER

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PAGE 02 NAIROB 09104 171128Z

THAN FROM US. I WOULD SUGGEST AT PRESENT OUR ROLE BE THAT OF A CATALYST ONCE SOME COMMON LINES OF THOUGHT EMERGE FROM CONSULTATIONS. IF WE ARE TO REMAIN TRUE TO OUR OWN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED POLICY, WE MUST AVOID APPEARING PATRONIZING BY IMPOSING OUR OWN SOLUTIONS.

2. WITH DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL, I WOULD CERTAINLY BE

WILLING TO GO TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA WITH A BRIEF BASED
ON ABOVE REASONING.

3. I HAVE SOME SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT OUR PUSHING
AFRICAN PROBLEMS INTO UN GIVEN WHAT SEEMS TO ME GREAT
PROPENSITY OF THAT ORGANIZATION TO SPLIT ALONG EAST-WEST
AND NORTH-SOUTH LINES, THE VERY THING WE WANT TO AVOID.
HOWEVER, I SEE MERIT IN UN BECOMING INVOLVED AT MORE
TECHNICAL LEVEL, SUCH AS ESTABLISHING BORDER COMMISSION
TO GUARANTEE ZAIREAN-ANGOLAN BORDER.

4. DURING CONSULTATIONS WE CAN, OF COURSE, RAISE SUCH
ISSUES AS RESTRAINT OF ARMS TRANSFER IN AFRICA, HUMAN
RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY AS CONCERNS ETHNIC MINORITIES, ETC.,
BUT IT SEEMS TO ME TO PLOW FAMILIAR GROUND HERE. WE MAY
DO BETTER TO STICK TO MAIN ISSUE OF IMPRESSING ON OUR
FRIENDS URGENT AND CRITICAL NEED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR
OWN REGIONAL MACHINERY IN ORDER AVOID INCREASING
EAST-WEST RIVALRY IN AFRICA, SUCH AS SHABA.
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